

**2025
Congregation Officers**

President-
Suzanne Umstott
Vice President-
Casey Colledge
Secretary-
Debbie Szymanski
Treasurer-
Stephanie Wade

2025 Congregation
Council Members

Education (Faith
Formation)-
Charity Friend
Evangelism-
Linda Zeller
Finance-
Brenda Aydelotte
Ministry in Daily Life-
Nancy Ayers
Personnel-
Brenda Aydelotte, Casey
Colledge, Sue Umstott
Property-
Todd Umstott
Social Ministry-
Marsha Tarte
Stewardship-
Casey Colledge
Worship & Music-
Liz Medcalf

St. Paul Church Staff

Pastor
The Reverend Ryan K.
Viands
Director of Music
David Rankin
Parish Administrator
Debbie Szymanski
Sexton
Cody Morris
Treasurer
Stephanie Wade

**PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST
IN A CHANGING WORLD SINCE 1794**



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

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Cumberland, MD 21502
(301) 722-6604

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Email: debbie@stpaulcumberland.org

October 2025

In All Ways, Pray!

The Gospel according to Saint Luke 18: 1-8.

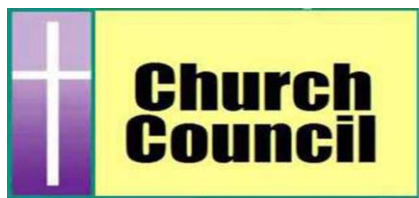
On Sunday, October 19th the Holy Gospel begins with an explanation. “Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart” (St. Luke 18:1). It’s a good thing we have this little introduction so we don’t get sidetracked during the story, which is complicated. We have an intense legal case, a corrupt judge, and a stubborn woman—plenty to be distracted by.

In which moments do we find it difficult to “pray and notlose heart”? Perhaps when we are in a journey of grief, in a situation so lonely we feel no support, or so angry there seems no room for hoy. If we were in a legal battle impossible to win because our judge has no interest in real justice, we might feel this kind of heart-deep discouragement. The weight of it might push us to give up trying.

In moments like these, perhaps we can hear Jesus’ words to “pray always” also as the invitation to pray *all ways*. When our rhythm of prayer is disrupted by heavy things, we can cry out outside our typical prayer: flooding God’s mailbox with cards, letters, and e-mails demanding help and justice; allowing our-selves be lonely for a time, calling on others to pray on our behalf—these can all be ways to understand a life of real prayer. Maybe for this season of life we sing our prayers, drum our petitions, light candles for hope, or create some new way to pray. Maybe this is what it looks like to grow in faith.

Returning to the introduction of this odd parable can give the people of God great hope. Jesus’ words of intention assure us that God is at hand and that God does not wish for us to be discouraged. With Jesus by our side, the author of our faith and our holy friend, we can pray always and in all ways! What a friend we have in Jesus! Thank you Lord, Jesus for always hearing us when we pray!

In His Service, Fr. Ryan +



September has been a very busy month for church council. Among many things we are working on, we have formed a new personnel committee consisting of myself, Brenda Aydelotte and Casey Colledge. We are working diligently with the staff to update job descriptions, address concerns etc. We feel very fortunate to have such wonderful employees here at St Paul's and want to make sure they are well taken care of.

As we head into fall and soon our thanksgiving season I am reminded of everything I have to be thankful for. Included in my blessings is my church family and all of the work we do in the community that we serve. As we move forward in our outreach, I would like us all to be mindful of the Blessing of the animals coming up and the request for donations for our local animal shelter where the need is great. We will also be participating in the safe and snug program again this year. Donations of hats, coats, gloves etc. will go a long way to keeping the students of Allegany County warm this winter. Hoping everyone is having a wonderful fall.

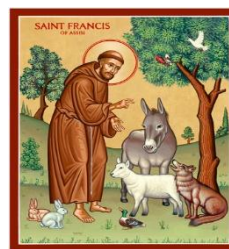
Blessings

Sue Umstott, Council President



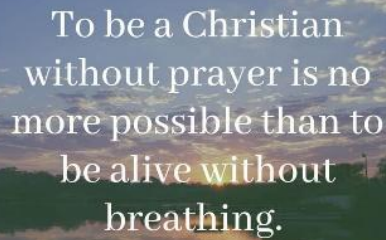
OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Wanda Hunt
- 4 – Casey Colledge
- 8 – Debbie Metheny
- 15 – Tamela Rankin
- 15 – Donna Goldizen
- 29 – Debbie Streicher



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 5th
at 5:00 p.m.
on the Washington Street lawn.



To be a Christian
without prayer is no
more possible than to
be alive without
breathing.

Martin Luther

Please join us in the Luther Chapel to pray for the Church at large, for our world, and for Saint Paul. We typically meet on the second Tuesday each month; however for October we will meet on Tuesday, October 20th at 11:00 a.m.

Saint Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:21: “The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you’”. “The body cannot function as it ought without each part: hands, head, feet, ears, or eyes. Each part is indispensable. Yet how do we get diverse parts working together? How do we cultivate this unusual unity, like-mindedness, and cooperation? *We pray together.*”

“As it is the business of tailors to make clothes, and the business of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray!” – Martin Luther

Thank You...

Dear St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

On behalf of the September Singers, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for welcoming us into your space this summer. Your generosity and hospitality made our rehearsals not only possible, but also enjoyable.

To express our gratitude, we’ve enclosed a donation of \$400 in thanks. Please accept this gift as a token of appreciation for the sanctuary you provided.

With warm regards,

Nancy A. Pritchard, Treasurer
September Singers

Let Us Pray With You

Sunday Morning Prayers

Prayer requests called into the church office or received through pastoral visits.

Prayed for during Sunday morning worship.

Intercessory Prayer Team Prayers

Prayer requests placed in the prayer box shown below, (form provided), received by email to mutmab43@gmail.com, or by text to 240-727-1798.



These requests are prayed for daily by the Prayer Team and are held in complete confidentiality.

Kathleen Ball

Prayer Team Coordinator



A paint and sip event with Beth Hilliker will be held on Friday, November 14th beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the upper level coffee house at St. Paul's. The cost is \$35.00 which includes paint supplies and instruction for creating the scene shown. No skill is needed to participate. Please sign up on the bulletin board by Sunday, November 2nd. BYOB and a small snack to share.



**Oct 4th Brookdale Farm
Fall Intergenerational Activity
5:00-9:00 p.m.**



To prepare for the upcoming cold weather, The Allegany County Department of Social Services will operate its 25th annual Safe and Snug program.

St. Paul Church will collect new coats, gloves, hats and scarves during the month of October and deliver them to DSS in support of their effort. Please put donations in the box located in the side hall entrance to the church.

In 2024, over 400 new coats were given to children, thanks entirely to community support.

Financial assistance is also needed to purchase coats from area merchants. Monetary donations should be payable to MASSBF, Attention Finance, with Safe and Snug in the memo section and mailed to Allegany County Social Services, 1 Frederick St., Cumberland, MD 21502



REFORMATION Sunday

Alllegany Conference churches will come together for a joint Reformation worship on Sunday, October 26th at St. John Lutheran Church. The church is located at 400 Arch Street in Cumberland. Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. and will be followed by a luncheon. The luncheon will be held in fellowship hall on the lower level; those with mobility concerns are invited to eat in the upstairs parlor. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you'll be attending the luncheon so meals can be ordered and also if eating in the parlor is the best option for you.



Gems from a New Era: Haydn, Mozart & More

Sunday, October 12, 2025 | 4:00 p.m.

[Shrine of Ss. Peter and Paul, 125 Fayette St., Cumberland, MD](#)



The story of Peter and a storm appear in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark. Jesus walks on water during a storm. Peter attempts to walk on water to Jesus, but takes his eyes off of Jesus and lets his fear overcome him by the fierce winds and waves. He cries out for help before Jesus rescues him.

Each time I hear this story my mind goes to an old favorite: “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.”

I am easily distracted from most any task at hand. During the average day it makes little difference, except perhaps my irritation for not accomplishing what I intend. However, my distractions are definitely an issue during my times of prayer. If a particular distraction continues, I’ve learned it may mean Kathleen, pay attention; hear My voice.

It helps to acknowledge the distraction, but then bring my focus back to God and give the distraction to Him. Knowing God’s Word, or a particular scripture, and having a consistent prayer time each day helps us to develop a deeper relationship to the One who loves us the most.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Look full in His wonderful face

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of His glory and grace.

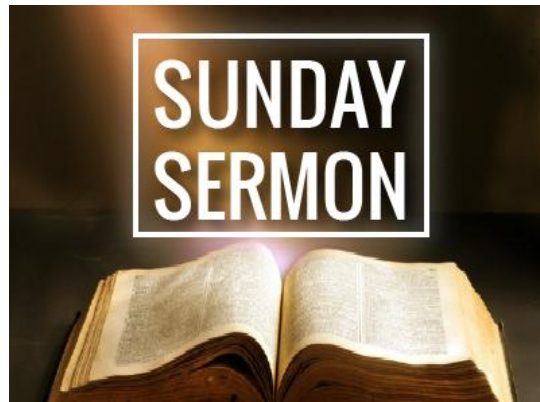


Liturgical Deacon training and orientation

If you are feeling called to assist in leading worship as a liturgical deacon please contact Casey, Timmy or Pastor Ryan. A training and orientation will be scheduled for those interested.

FAITH *family* & Fun

The children of St. Paul Lutheran and their parents and grandparents are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of each month. We start with a family dinner, move to family worship in the small chapel, then back upstairs for a craft activity. We start at 6:00 p.m. and are usually finished in an hour and a half. Our next event is on October 21st.



As you might have noticed Casey has been recording the sermon messages each Sunday. She has been loading them to a Google Drive so folks who aren't able to be in church can still hear the message from that week. If you would like to have access to the recordings, please reach out to Casey with your Gmail email address and she can give you access to the Google drive where they will be stored. If that option does not work, please reach out to Casey to discuss the best way to receive the recording that is right for you. You can reach her on her cell 814-977-8220 or via email ccolledge750@gmail.com.



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| Wednesday 5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m. | October 1 Hand bell rehearsal Vespers-lower chapel Choir rehearsal |
| Thursday 5:30 p.m. | October 2 Confirmation instruction |
| Friday | October 3 Beginnings ½ day school |
| Saturday 5:00-9:00 | October 4 Brookdale Farm Intergenerational activity |
| Sunday 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. | October 5 Worship Pastor Appreciation luncheon Fellowship Hall reserved Blessing of the Animals |
| Monday 6:00-8:00 7:00 p.m. | October 6 Art class-coffee house Let's Beautify Cumberland-fellowship hall |
| Wednesday 5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m. | October 8 Hand Bell rehearsal Vespers-Chapel Choir rehearsal |
| Thursday 4:00-6:00 5:30 p.m. | October 9 Bountiful Blessings Confirmation instruction |
| Saturday 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. | October 11 Grief Support group Mountainside Baroque lunch-fellowship hall |
| Sunday 10:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m. | October 12 Worship Book Study |
| Tuesday 5:30 p.m. | October 14 Council meeting |

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| Wednesday 5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m. | October 15 Hand bell rehearsal Vespers-lower chapel Choir rehearsal |
| Thursday 5:30 p.m. | October 16 Confirmation instruction |
| Sunday 10:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m. | October 19 Worship Book Study |
| Monday 6:00-8:00 | October 20 Art class-fellowship hall |
| Tuesday 6:00 p.m. | October 21 Faith and Fun Family Night |
| Wednesday 5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m. | October 22 Hand bell rehearsal Vespers-lower chapel Choir rehearsal |
| Thursday 4:00-6:00 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. | October 23 Bountiful Blessings Confirmation instruction Council dinner-Mise En Place |
| Saturday 10:00 a.m. | October 25 Grief Support group Council retreat-fellowship hall |
| Sunday 10:00 a.m. | October 26 Worship at St. John Church Fellowship Hall reserved for afternoon |
| Monday 6:00-8:00 | October 27 Art class-fellowship hall |
| Wednesday 5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m. | October 29 Hand Bell rehearsal Vespers-Chapel Choir rehearsal |
| Thursday 5:30 p.m. | October 30 Confirmation instruction |
| Friday 9:00 a.m. | October 31 Window Tour group Beginnings Parade of Costumes-1/2 day |